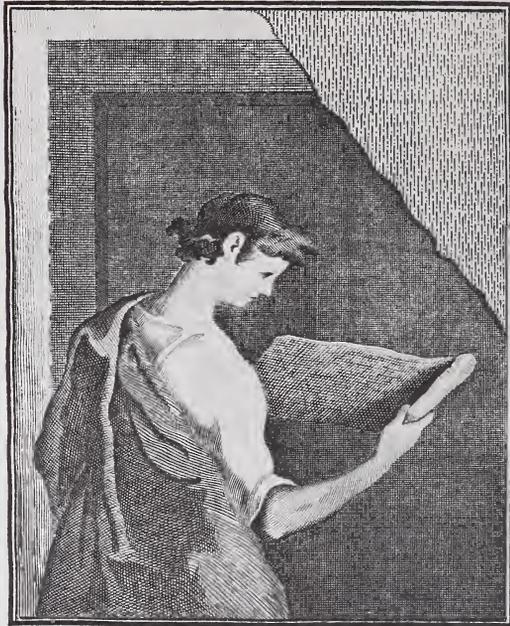


קצו 8

N
12
R88
A1
1867





THE J. PAUL GETTY MUSEUM LIBRARY



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2017 with funding from
Getty Research Institute

Royal Society Library

presented by the Hon^{ble} & Learned
D^o of the King

Royal Academy

Edinburgh ~~the~~ Dec 1867

FORTIETH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE COUNCIL OF THE

ROYAL SCOTTISH ACADEMY

OF

PAINTING, SCULPTURE, AND
ARCHITECTURE.

INSTITUTED 1826.

INCORPORATED BY ROYAL CHARTER 1838.

EDINBURGH: PRINTED BY THOMAS CONSTABLE,
PRINTER TO THE QUEEN, AND TO THE UNIVERSITY.

1867.

Council and Office-Bearers

OF THE

ROYAL SCOTTISH ACADEMY

OF

Painting, Sculpture, and Architecture,

FOR THE YEAR ENDING 13TH NOVEMBER 1867.

Council.

SIR GEORGE HARVEY, PRESIDENT AND TRUSTEE.

WALLER H. PATON, Esq. WILLIAM BRODIE, Esq. KENNETH MACLEAY, Esq.		J. ECKFORD LAUDER, Esq. W. SMELLIE WATSON, Esq. SIR NOEL PATON.
--	--	---

D. O. HILL, Esq., SECRETARY AND TRUSTEE.

W. B. JOHNSTONE, Esq., TREASURER AND TRUSTEE.

DAVID BRYCE, Esq.,		TRUSTEE.
CHARLES LEES, Esq.,	}	AUDITORS.
KENNETH MACLEAY, Esq.,		
JAMES DRUMMOND, Esq.,		LIBRARIAN.
WALLER H. PATON, Esq.,	}	CURATORS OF LIBRARY.
WILLIAM BRODIE, Esq.,		
GOURLAY STEELL, Esq.,	}	VISITORS OF THE LIFE ACADEMY.
JAMES DRUMMOND, Esq.,		
KENNETH MACLEAY, Esq.,		

REPORT.

IN rendering their Report of the proceedings of the Academy during their year of office, the retiring Council have much pleasure in being enabled to congratulate the members, not only on the continued, but the greatly increased, prosperity of the Institution.

I. The Exhibition of 1867, which opened on the 16th of Exhibition. February, and closed on the 11th of May, proved the most attractive and successful of any yet undertaken by the Academy, with the single exception of that which inaugurated their occupation of the new Royal Academy National Galleries in 1855. Eight hundred and eighty-nine pictures in Oil and Water-Colours, and fifty-three productions in Sculpture, were exhibited; the amount of sales being £1000 in excess of that of last year; while the receipts from visitors to the Exhibition were greatly in advance of the previous year,—facts which indicate in no uncertain manner the steadily growing appreciation of the National Fine Art Exhibition on the part of the Scottish public.

As on previous occasions, the greater part of the Exhibition was the production of resident Scottish artists; and the Council feel fully justified in recording their conviction that these works gave unquestionable indication of progress.

They consider it their duty, however, to state, that, in their opinion, several of the works exhibited were marred by a slighness and assumption of *bravura*, which, however admissible, nay, admirable, in the works of a great master, as the legitimate results of lengthened practice and previous laborious study, are out of place, and suggestive rather of incompetence than of power, when found to predominate in the otherwise feeble or crude productions of young and yet but half-educated artists.

On the present, as on so many previous occasions, the Council have to record their grateful sense of the warm interest felt by Her Majesty the Queen in the prosperity of the Royal Scottish Academy; evinced, amongst other acts of gracious kindness, by frequent contribution to the Academy's Exhibition of valuable and cherished pictures from the Royal collections. To the Exhibition of 1867, one charming work from the hand of Sir Edwin Landseer was sent by permission of Her Majesty, and at the request of the artist. For the appearance there of another and very interesting picture, the joint production of the same distinguished honorary member of the Academy, and of Mr. W. Wallis, the painter of 'The Death of Chatterton,' the Council were indebted to John Forster, Esq., by whom the picture was sent. They were also indebted for valuable contributions to two other distinguished honorary members of the Academy: Sir Francis Grant, P.R.A., and John Everett Millais, R.A.

Among the more important contributions to the collection, not the production of Scottish artists, the Council have much gratification in noticing the 'Girl of Trieste' by Portaels, which was sent from the Royal collection at Brussels by the orders of his Majesty the King of the Belgians, with a ready courtesy, their high appreciation of which they have not failed to convey to his Majesty through the proper channel. To Mr. Van de Weyer, Belgian Minister in London, and to their patriotic fellow-countryman, Horatio Ross, Esq., the

thanks of the Council are due for their valuable assistance in procuring for the Exhibition this charming specimen of modern Belgian art.

The Council were desirous that this Exhibition should contain as full a representation as was practicable of the art of their departed friend, John Graham Gilbert, R.S.A., it being the last in which, by the laws of the Academy, any specimens of his work could appear. And they have to record their warm acknowledgments to Mrs. Graham Gilbert, and to those friends of her late husband who contributed works from his pencil, for the ready response on their part by which the Council were enabled to accomplish their object.

Nor must the Council here omit to notice the appearance on the walls of the Exhibition of several of those brilliant contributions for which on this, as on so many former occasions, they were indebted to the friendship and patriotism of their lamented honorary member, John Phillip, R.A., whose untimely death, while yet these works were on the walls, fresh from his hand, will be alluded to in another section of this Report.

On the day which preceded the public opening of the Exhibition on Saturday the 16th February, the Academy's Annual Banquet took place in the galleries of the Royal Scottish Academy, on which occasion, along with the members of the Academy, the President and Council had the honour to entertain as guests a select number of gentlemen occupying high official position, or distinguished as lovers and promoters of Literature and Art in Scotland.

On the evening of the 15th March, a Full-dress Promenade in the galleries was held, when, by the courtesy of the Honourable the Commissioners of the Board of Manufactures, as Trustees of the National Gallery, the rooms of the Gallery were opened *en suite* with those of the Academy. There was, as usual, a large attendance.

Library.

II. Within the year several valuable books have been added to the Library, and a set of fifty-seven photographs from the works of the late John Phillip, R.A., comprising the whole of his unfinished pictures in oil, disposed of at the sale after his death. Only eight sets of copies were taken, with the view of identifying the condition of the works, as left by the painter. They were presented to the Academy by the trustees of Mr. Phillip, along with the last palette used by him.

The following is the Report of the Librarian and Curators :—

‘EDINBURGH, 4th November 1867.

‘Since last Report, a number of interesting books have been added to the Library. From among these may be mentioned “The Sculptured Stones of Scotland,” being the interesting work edited by Dr. John Stuart for the members of the Spalding Club, by whom these magnificent volumes were presented ; “Archaic Sculpturings of Cups, Circles,” etc., by Sir James Y. Simpson, Bart., also “Some Ancient Sculptures on the Walls of Caves in Fife,” by Sir James Y. Simpson, Bart., both presented by the author ; “Anastasis Childerici I. Francorum Regis, sive Thesaurus Sepulchralis,” etc., J. J. Chiffletio (1654), presented by Dr. John Niven ; “Reminiscences of the Veterans of the Sea,” by J. C. Schetky, Marine Painter to the Queen ; “Illustrations of Faust,” by P. von Cornelius ; “Monograms of Man,” by David Scott, R.S.A. ; “Albertus Durerus de Symmetria Humanorum Corporum” (1534) ; “Kunst Toonend Jurveel,” Z. Heynes (1607) ; “Représentation et Description de toutes les Leçons des Chevaux,” etc., Ridinger (1760) ; “Descriptio Omnium Regionum Belgii,” Lud. Guicciardini (1616) ; “The Costume of the Clans,” by J. Sobieski and Charles Edward Stuart ; “The History of Scotland,” by William Drummond of Hawthornden (1655) ; “Manners and Customs of the Ancient Egyptians,” by Sir John G. Wilkinson, six vols. ; “Life of David Roberts, R.A.,” by James Ballantine ; “Life and Works of Holbein,” by R. N. Wornum ; Nott and Gliddon’s “Indigenous Races of the Earth ;” Nott and Gliddon’s “Types of Mankind ;” “History of Scotland,” by J. Hill Burton, LL.D. ; “National Manuscripts of Scotland ;” “La Perspective Curieuse,” par Rev. P.

Niceron (1652); "Nouvel Essai sur les Inscriptions Gauloises," par Adolphe Pictet, presented by the author; Publications of the Arundel Society.

'Owing to extensive alterations about the National Galleries, the Library was closed in the evenings for some months. It was open, however, during the season on fifty-four evenings. During the Session, the Library, by order of the President and Council, was thrown open on the Thursday evenings for the use of the students attending the Life Class; the attendance was, upon the whole, satisfactory.'

The Catalogue of the Library is now completed, but on further consideration the Council have thought it advisable to defer printing it.

III. The following is a copy of the Report of the Visitors Life Academy.
of the Life Academy:—

'The Visitors of the Life School have much satisfaction in bearing testimony to the regular attendance, industry, and good conduct of the Students during the present Session. And they trust that the productions of the Students, when examined by the Council, will verify this Report, and prove the success and value of the Academy's Life School. The Life Academy has been open this Session for 102 nights; attendances of students, 1137.'

'July 1867.'

The Council having carefully examined the various studies in Chalk and in Oil Colours made in the Life Academy during the past session, have much pleasure in expressing their satisfaction with the industry and ability which not a few of these works exhibit. The Chalk studies from the living model, by Mr. Robert Gibb, and the Anatomical Drawings of the figure as posed in the Life School, by Mr. John Wallace, were specially deserving of commendation.

The Prizes were awarded as follows:—

To Mr. ROBERT GIBB, for Drawings from the Living Model,	Five Guineas.	<small>THE KEITH PRIZE, Endowed by the Trustees of the late Sir Alexander Keith of Dunnottar, supplemented by the R.S.A.</small>
To Mr. JOHN WALLACE,	do. Three Guineas.	
To Mr. JOHN DUN,	do. Two Guineas.	
To Mr. SANDERSON, for studies in Oil from the Living Model,	Three Guineas.	
To Mr. DUN,	do. Two Guineas.	

For exercises in the Anatomical Drawing of the Figures as posed in the Life School :—

Academy Prizes.	Mr. JOHN WALLACE,	Three Guineas.
	Mr. C. O. MURRAY,	Two Guineas.

The third competition for the STUART PRIZE, Endowed by Katherine Lady Stuart of Allanbank.

IV. For the Stuart Prize only three competitors entered this Session; and after a very careful consideration of the three Drawings in Chalk produced, the Council were reluctantly constrained to exercise their power of withholding the prize; the drawings, though not destitute of a certain amount of ability and care, upon the whole falling short of the standard of merit which the Academy are desirous of maintaining in the works to which the Stuart Prize is awarded.

Presentation by Mrs. G. Gilbert of 'The Bandit's Bride.'

V. The Council have to record the presentation, by Mrs. Graham Gilbert of Yorkhill, for the Academy's collection, of the picture of 'The Bandit's Bride,' the last work painted by her late husband, John Graham Gilbert, R.S.A. For this valuable gift, the cordial thanks of the Council were duly forwarded to Mrs. Graham Gilbert.

Presentation by Mrs. Dyce of Cartoons by her late Husband.

The Council have also to acknowledge the presentation, by Mrs. Dyce, of eight Cartoons by the late William Dyce, R.A., H.R.S.A., for portions of the great works in fresco executed by him in the Queen's Robing-Room in the Palace of Westminster, illustrative of the Virtues of Chivalry,—those now presented being parts of the two frescoes representing, the one, The Vision of Sir Galahad and his Company, illustrative of 'Religion or Faith,' and the other, Sir Gawayne swearing to be merciful to the vanquished, illustrative of 'Mercy.' At the date of the untimely and lamented decease of Mr. Dyce in 1864, the Council, in a minute of 5th April of that year, endeavoured to give expression to their high appreciation of the genius and acquirements of that distinguished representative of the Scottish school of Art,—genius

and acquirements which, in their splendour and versatility, closely resembled those of certain great masters of the Revival. It is therefore unnecessary here to do more than record their warmest thanks to Mrs. Dyce for the valued gift; and to say that these works will be long and lovingly preserved as a memorial of the gifted mind which produced them, and as illustrations, not altogether unneeded by students of Art at the present time, of the studious care with which even one so full of knowledge and power was accustomed to compose his works.

The Council have the satisfaction of stating that, at the recent sale of the remaining unfinished works of the late John Phillip, R.A., they had the good fortune to secure, for the Academy's collection, at a sum considerably under that placed at their disposal for this purpose by the unanimous vote of the Academy, an admirably faithful and spirited copy, by that lamented master, of 'The Surrender of Breda' (better known as 'Las Lanzas'), by Velasquez. This valuable reproduction by the hand of one great master, of the work of another, it was the known intention of Mr. Phillip to present to the Royal Scottish Academy, as a study likely to prove of service to the rising school, as a model of Historical Art, peculiarly applicable to the treatment by Scottish artists of subjects illustrative of the National History;—a circumstance which naturally increased the Council's desire that it should be added to the Academy's collection. The price paid for this picture was £231. At the same time six characteristic studies in Water-Colours were secured for the collection, at the sum of £112: one of them, the interior of the house occupied by Mr. Phillip in Seville, which must always possess a mournful interest to the artists of Scotland.* These, with the magnificent unfinished picture,

Purchase of
works by the late
John Phillip,
R.A.

* The picture by Mr. Graham Gilbert, the cartoons by Mr. Dyce, and the picture and drawings by Mr. Phillip, noted on this and the previous page, have been added to that portion of the Academy's collection deposited in the Scottish National Gallery.

‘Spanish Boys Playing at Bull-fighting,’ purchased with so much judgment, for deposition in the National Gallery, by the Committee of the Royal Association for the Promotion of the Fine Arts in Scotland, can scarcely, in the Council’s opinion, fail to exercise an invigorating and enduring influence on our native school of Art.

Purchase of
Portrait of Alex-
ander Fraser,
A. R. S. A.

A portrait of the late Alexander Fraser, A. R. S. A., painted by himself, has been added by purchase to the Academy’s Collection of Portraits of Artists.

Knighthood of
the President.

VI. The following excerpts from the minutes of the General Assembly of the Academy, held on the 11th February 1867, will explain themselves :—

‘Before proceeding to the business for which this meeting was specially summoned, the President handed to the Secretary a letter from the Right Honourable George Patton, Lord Advocate of Scotland, which the President requested he would read to the meeting. It is as follows :—

“LONDON, 9th February 1867.

“SIR,—Mr. Secretary Walpole has it in command from Her Majesty to signify her most gracious intention to confer upon you the honour of Knighthood, and he has commissioned me to make this announcement to you.

“I beg to express my personal gratification in being permitted to be the medium of communicating to you this marked recognition on the part of Her Majesty of your own high artistic merits, as well as those of the distinguished body which you officially represent.—I have the honour to be, Sir, your obedient servant,

“GEORGE PATTON.

“To GEORGE HARVEY, Esq.,
President of the Royal Scottish Academy of
Painting, Sculpture, and Architecture.”

‘The meeting, on the motion of the Secretary, seconded by the Treasurer, unanimously agreed to offer to Mr. Harvey, their President, their warm congratulations on the near prospect of an event equally honouring to him as an individual and to the body over which he presided, seeing that it announced Her Majesty’s marked recognition of Mr. Harvey’s high artistic merits, as well as those of

the Academy which he represented. . . . They remit to the Council to communicate to the Lord Advocate their respectful and grateful sense of his efficient co-operative services in this, to them, most gratifying matter. . . .

‘The President called the attention of the meeting to a letter which had appeared in the Edinburgh newspapers that morning, from the Lord Advocate, to their brother Academician, Mr. Noel Paton, Her Majesty’s Linner for Scotland, announcing that Her Majesty had been graciously pleased to intimate her intention to confer on Mr. Paton the honour of Knighthood, in recognition of his eminence as an artist; and he now moved that the Academy at this meeting should express to Mr. Paton their congratulations on the well-merited honour which had thus been announced to him as impending. The meeting unanimously responded to the motion of the President, and congratulated Mr. Paton accordingly. Mr. Paton returned his grateful thanks to the meeting.’

Knighthood of
Her Majesty’s
Linner.

The honour of Knighthood was conferred on Mr. Harvey and Mr. Paton, by the hand of Her Majesty, at Windsor Castle, on the 26th March 1867.

VII. At a Statutory General Meeting of the Academy held on the 11th February, for the purpose of filling up the vacancy in the ranks of the Academicians caused by the death of John Graham Gilbert, R.S.A., Mr. John Hutchison, sculptor, was duly elected to the rank of Academician. The vacancies made in the ranks of the Associates by the election of Mr. Hutchison, and by the death of Mr. J. C. Brown, will be filled up at next General Meeting.*

Election of
Academician.

VIII. Having thus discharged the agreeable task of recording in detail the progress and acquisitions of the Academy during the past official year, it is now the mournful duty of the Council to allude to the irreparable loss which that institution and the Arts in Great Britain have sustained in the

Death of John
Phillip, R. A.

* At the General Meeting of the Academy held on the 13th inst., the following Gentlemen were elected Associates of the Royal Scottish Academy :—viz., Mr. JOHN M·WHIRTER, and Mr. G. P. CHALMERS.

death of John Phillip, R.A., honorary member of the Royal Scottish Academy. Had the genius of this remarkable man been less conspicuous, or had it received from the public recognition less universal and unqualified, the Council would have considered it their duty to give some expression of the estimate in which his powers as an artist are held by the body which they represent. But this, under the circumstances, they feel to be uncalled for. Nor do they deem it necessary here to bear testimony to the generous and unselfish character of their departed friend, for that, too, has been recognised, in no uncertain way, by his professional brethren and by all who knew him. But they feel that they would be unjust to his memory, and, indeed, to their own sentiments, did they fail to place on record their high sense of the patriotic attachment towards the Royal Academy of his native country which he displayed during the whole of his career; an attachment to which his important contributions to its Annual Exhibitions—often procured by him from reluctant proprietors at the cost of much personal inconvenience—bore yearly testimony. And the Council take this opportunity of expressing their hope that the example thus set by ‘the glorious painter, the brave and good man, passed away in the fulness of power, from amid the honour of his nation and the love of his friends,’* may not be lost on other compatriots somewhat similarly circumstanced, and yet more closely connected with the body than he was.

Death of C.
Stanfield, R.A.

The Council have also to record, with sentiments of sincere regret, the death, within the year, of another of the most gifted and distinguished of British artists, namely, Clarkson Stanfield, R.A., who died at London on the 18th of May 1867. Mr. Stanfield had long been intimately connected with the Academy by the ties of honorary membership, and by the contribution to their Annual Exhibition of some of

* *Punch*, 30th February.

his finest productions, from amongst which his greatest work, 'The Day after the Wreck,' sent through the liberality of the late E. Bicknell, Esq., may be named as a memorable example of that union of various powers, which, on the death of Turner, placed him confessedly at the head of the united Landscape and Marine Painters of Great Britain.

It is also the sad duty of the Council to record the loss, Death of H. MacCulloch, R.S.A. within the year, of one of the most gifted and conspicuous members of the Academy, Horatio MacCulloch, R.S.A., whose name has been so long and so honourably associated with the Arts in Scotland, as the faithful and loving interpreter of those scenes and aspects of nature more peculiarly characteristic of the North, and to the illustration of which it was his pride exclusively to devote the vigorous and busy pencil that only dropped from his hand in the hour of death. He died on the 24th of June 1867; and the place left vacant in Scottish Art by his loss, while yet, despite the decay of physical strength, his sturdy and prolific intellect was in perfect vigour, it will not be easy to supply. Nor will the genial and original character as a man, which endeared him to so large a circle of his professional brethren, and of other persons of taste, be soon forgotten. Desirous of testifying their respect for the genius, and high appreciation of the long and important services of Mr. MacCulloch, the President and Council thought it right that they should offer, for themselves and for the Academy generally, to attend his funeral in their official capacity; and, the offer having been accepted, they, with a large number of the members of the Academy, were present on the mournful occasion.

The Council have further to record the death, on 8th May last, of their esteemed member, J. C. Brown, A.R.S.A., whose Death of J. C. Brown, A. R. S. A. failing health during many years unfortunately prevented the full development of those powers of which his early produc-

tions gave such unequivocal indication, and thus denied him the attainment of that professional position which his ability and acquirements, combined with his thoroughly excellent and amiable character, would otherwise have achieved. His brethren of the Academy will remember, as affording grounds for this belief, Mr. Brown's poetic treatment of a subject suggested by Highland emigration, and called 'The Last of the Clan,' which elicited in a public speech a warm encomium from the late Lord Jeffrey.

Subscription
towards Goodsir
Scholarship.

The Academy have, with much satisfaction, embraced the offered opportunity of indicating their respect for the memory of the late John Goodsir, Esq., Professor of Anatomy in the University of Edinburgh, by subscribing the sum of twenty guineas towards the endowment, in connexion with the University, of a Goodsir Scholarship for the commemoration of his name, and for the promotion of the department of Science of which he was so illustrious a master, and the stores of which he was ever so ready to place at the service of members of the Academy. It will be remembered that, shortly before his death, Professor Goodsir presented to the collection of the Academy a fine painting in *tempera*, an early work of the late William Dyce, R.A., which they value very highly.

Protest against
threatened
demolition of
Historical
Monuments.

VIII. Having reason to apprehend that by the Lord Provost's City Improvement Scheme certain buildings of great national, antiquarian, and artistic interest were threatened with destruction, the Council hastened to lay before his Lordship a respectful protest against the apprehended demolition. And it being clear from the nature of the Lord Provost's reply, that he was unable to give satisfactory assurance that their protest would be effectual, the Council considered it their duty, as representatives of an important National institution, specially called upon to interest itself in

such matters, to petition Parliament on the subject. By the time this was done, however,—although not a moment had been lost,—the Bill had passed into Committee. Documents connected with this matter will be found in the Appendix.

IX. In relinquishing the powers and duties with which, for the period limited by the Charter, they have been intrusted by their constituents, the Council feel that they may be permitted to look back with no small satisfaction on the events that have taken place during their tenure of office, saddened though that has been by the death of so many members of the Academy and other professional brethren. But they also feel that the new honours and successes that have accrued to the Academy have in many ways deepened and widened the responsibilities of the body. They are confident, however, that the gracious act of Her Majesty the Queen, recorded in this Report, and which is so perfectly in harmony with all the many previous acts of the Sovereign in relation to the Academy, will have the effect, which doubtless it was intended to have, at once of elevating the position of the Academy as a National Institution, pledged to the advancement of National Art, of encouraging the body to a yet more earnest discharge of the public duties intrusted to it, and of stimulating the efforts of the members individually to maintain and augment its influence for good.

GEORGE HARVEY, *President.*

ROYAL ACADEMY, EDINBURGH,
13th November 1867.

APPENDIX.

1. *Letter from the SECRETARY to the RIGHT HONOURABLE WILLIAM CHAMBERS of Glenormiston, Lord Provost of the City of Edinburgh.*

‘ROYAL ACADEMY, EDINBURGH,
20th Feb. 1867.

‘MY LORD,—The Council of the Royal Scottish Academy beg to address your Lordship on a very important proceeding that is likely to take place under the City Improvement Scheme, namely, the removal of ancient architectural historical monuments ; and they understand that already two of great interest are marked out for destruction, namely, Cardinal Beaton’s house and the town mansion of the old Earls of Selkirk.

‘As representing a body of Artists, the Council of the Academy take no part in the sanitary or financial details of the scheme ; but they earnestly protest against the destruction of historical monuments which throw light on past times,—are standing records of those stirring events of Scottish history which have tended to mould the national character,—and which, from their romantic nature, have formed themes for the poets and historians not only of our own but of foreign countries.

‘Besides, as citizens of Edinburgh, we specially protest against any such desecration. This city derives its chief interest from its picturesque situation, quaint architecture, and the historical associations called up by the inspection of monuments of the past, which stand as witnesses of, or serve to corroborate, events that give our ancient capital a name and place among the most noted cities of

Europe,—which annually draw thousands of visitors to it, who not only derive pleasure and benefit themselves, but assist in advancing the trade and wealth of the city. In London, Paris, and other great cities, the attraction of visitors is considered a matter of great importance, and as materially conducing to their prosperity.

‘The Council are hopeful that the sanitary scheme projected may be completely carried out without involving measures that would lead to the destruction of historical monuments. A degree of careful planning, under the direction of men of taste and judgment in matters of Art and Archæology, would keep all right; and the Council have no doubt that the interest your Lordship has always shown in the ancient history of the city, and the sympathy you hold in common with those who deplore the barbarous desecration of its ancient historical monuments during a portion of this century, will induce you to take immediate and active measures to prevent what would lead to irretrievable consequences to the town.—I have the honour to be, my Lord, your Lordship’s most obedient servant,

‘D. O. HILL, *Secretary.*

‘THE RIGHT HONOURABLE THE LORD PROVOST.’

2. *Letter from the LORD PROVOST to the SECRETARY.*

‘13 CHESTER STREET, EDINBURGH,
Feb. 22, 1867.

‘DEAR SIR,—I am in receipt of your communication of the 20th inst., regarding the projected City Improvements, and the anxiety of the Royal Scottish Academy that every effort should be made to preserve the picturesque character of the Old Town, and to disturb as little as possible its historical associations. I beg to assure you and other members of the Academy, that I will do all in my power to secure these desirable objects. The alterations will, as far as I see, make no change on the High Street, nor on the generally picturesque appearance of the city, while I trust that in the new houses to be erected the best taste will be exercised. In short, nothing will be done, consistent with the great scheme of sanitary improvement, to give any uneasiness or cause deep regret. I beg to add that I sincerely appreciate the good feeling of the members of the Academy in this not unimportant matter; and will take care to record your

communication in the proceedings of the Sanitary Committee, to which the subject properly belongs.—Yours faithfully,

‘W. CHAMBERS, *Lord Provost.*

‘D. O. HILL, Esq.’

3. *Letter from the SECRETARY to the LORD PROVOST.*

‘13th March 1867.

‘MY LORD,—I am directed by the Council of the Royal Scottish Academy to thank your Lordship for your polite note of 22d ult., in reply to their communication of the 20th February last.

‘From the terms of your Lordship’s note, however, they are afraid that you have not received their communication exactly in the light in which they put it, for you refer to it as expressing the anxiety of the “Royal Scottish Academy that every effort should be made to preserve the picturesque character of the Old Town, and to disturb as little as possible its historical associations.” This, no doubt, is a correct statement of the terms of their letter generally, and they are grateful to your Lordship for the assurance you gave them that you will do all in your power “to secure these desirable objects.” But the Academy referred specially to two ancient historical monuments of great interest, viz., Cardinal Beaton’s house, and the town residence of the old Earls of Selkirk, as being marked out for destruction on the projected plans, though by a slight variation of these plans they may easily be spared; and from the special reference in your Lordship’s note as to what will be done, the Academy are not only left in doubt whether any effort will be made to preserve these monuments, but may almost infer that they are to be destroyed. Your Lordship says, “The alterations will, as far as I see, make no change on the High Street, nor on the generally picturesque appearance of the city.” This statement is to some extent satisfactory, still it is very vague when viewed in connexion with the precise character of the plans; and, indeed, from the nature of the ground on which the city stands, “the generally picturesque appearance of the city” would remain though every ancient monument in it were levelled to the ground. Your Lordship’s further assurance “that in the new houses to be erected the best taste will be exercised,” tends very much to calm certain very unpleasant anticipations, and your remark that, “in short, nothing will be done, consistent

with the great scheme of sanitary improvement, to give any uneasiness or cause deep regret," may be deemed in a general sense to imply the concession of every reasonable demand. But a scheme which embraces measures that, once carried out, are irretrievable, and that might obliterate monuments which stand as evidences of and illustrate that romantic history which has made this city so famous, should not be based on general assurances or undefined conditions. Some might plausibly maintain it to be "consistent with the great scheme of sanitary improvement" entirely to demolish the ancient portions of the city.

'Your Lordship concludes your note with a promise that you will take care to record the Academy's communication in the proceedings of the Sanitary Committee; such a record will only be a caveat that the Academy remonstrated against certain steps being taken, and so held themselves to be exonerated from blame if these steps afterwards caused regret; but that would afford the Academy no satisfaction; what they want is, to prevent the demolition of those national monuments, to get an assurance that they will be preserved, and also that other monuments of national interest in the city shall be carefully attended to, or at all events not removed without the fullest investigation by, and a report from, persons qualified in every way to decide on such matters.

'Unless the Academy, therefore, get something more definite from your Lordship than the explanation you have felt yourself warranted in giving, they trust your Lordship will not impute it to want of respect to you, but as an exercise of their rights as citizens of Edinburgh, if they take steps in using such means as they possess—petition to Parliament, the press, etc.—in opposing what they consider would be most injurious to the interests of the city.'

4. *Letter from the LORD PROVOST to the SECRETARY.*

'LONDON, *March 15, 1867.*

'MY DEAR SIR,—I received your communication yesterday afternoon, and will lay it before the Sanitary Committee of the Town Council as early as I can do so. I expect to be in Edinburgh on Monday, 18th.—Yours truly,

'W. CHAMBERS, *Lord Provost.*

'D. O. HILL, Esq.'

5. *Petition from the PRESIDENT and COUNCIL to the HONOURABLE THE COMMONS HOUSE OF PARLIAMENT.*

‘ Unto the Honourable the Commons of Great Britain and Ireland in Parliament assembled, the humble Petition of the PRESIDENT and COUNCIL of the ROYAL SCOTTISH ACADEMY OF PAINTING, SCULPTURE, AND ARCHITECTURE,—

‘ *Showeth*,—That in a Bill at present before your Honourable House, having ostensibly for its object the obtaining of an Act for Sanitary Improvements in the City of Edinburgh, certain powers are asked which, if exercised without some special control, will, as is shown in the plans lodged with said Bill, seriously damage, and in some cases utterly obliterate, a number of ancient architectural monuments of great historical interest, which, by a moderate exercise of careful planning, under the direction of men of taste and judgment in matters of Art and Archæology, might be spared, without in any material degree affecting the contemplated sanitary improvements. Among these monuments the petitioners point to Cardinal Beaton’s house, Cowgate, curious for its architectural features, and specially referred to by historians as a place in which striking national events took place, and the mansion of the old Earls of Selkirk, a remarkably fine example of the ancient style of architecture of Edinburgh, as being marked out, the former for entire demolition, while the principal and ornamental portions of the latter are to be swept away.

‘ The city of Edinburgh derives much of the interest attached to it from its picturesque situation, quaint architecture, and the historical associations called up by the inspection of monuments of the past, which stand as records of those stirring events in Scottish history which have tended to mould the national character, and have formed themes for poets and historians ; and the destruction of some of those architectural monuments of past times, which annually attract thousands of visitors from all parts of the world, would seriously affect the importance and prosperity of the city.

‘ As representing the artists of Scotland, and as citizens of Edinburgh, your petitioners object to the powers applied for in the Bill above referred to, unless they are limited and controlled by some effective check, and a guarantee that they shall not be exercised for removing ancient architectural historical monuments, without due

supervision, and a report by competent persons to be nominated in the Act to discharge that duty.

‘ Your petitioners therefore humbly pray your Honourable House that, should it be pleased to pass an Act for the Sanitary Improvement of the City of Edinburgh, in terms of the Bill at present before it, it will cause a clause or clauses to be inserted providing proper checks, and taking guarantees that ancient architectural monuments shall not be destroyed, except in cases of great necessity, and where they would seriously obstruct sanitary improvements, and where deviations from, or alterations in, the plan of the improvements could not be made without much inconvenience and great expense ; and that in no instance shall such demolitions be permitted, till after supervision by, and a report having been obtained on, the subject from certain qualified persons, to be named and designated to that office, in any Act that may be passed for the sanitary improvement of the City of Edinburgh.

‘ And your petitioners shall ever pray, etc.

(Signed) ‘ GEORGE HARVEY, *President.*’

At the Annual General Meeting of the Royal Scottish Academy of Painting, Sculpture, and Architecture, held in the Academy Library, Edinburgh, on Wednesday, the 13th November 1867, the Office-bearers were elected, and the Council declared for the ensuing year, as follows, viz. :—

Council.

SIR GEORGE HARVEY, PRESIDENT AND TRUSTEE.

J. ECKFORD LAUDER, Esq.		CHARLES LEES, Esq.
W. SMELLIE WATSON, Esq.		JOHN STEELL, Esq.
SIR NOEL PATON.		W. B. JOHNSTONE, Esq.

D. O. HILL, Esq., SECRETARY AND TRUSTEE.

W. B. JOHNSTONE, Esq., TREASURER AND TRUSTEE.

DAVID BRYCE, Esq.,		TRUSTEE.
CHARLES LEES, Esq.,	}	AUDITORS.
KENNETH MACLEAY, Esq.,		
JAMES DRUMMOND, Esq.,		LIBRARIAN.
J. ECKFORD LAUDER, Esq.,	}	CURATORS OF LIBRARY.
W. SMELLIE WATSON, Esq.,		
KENNETH MACLEAY, Esq.,	}	VISITORS OF THE LIFE ACADEMY.
GOURLAY STEELL, Esq.,		
WILLIAM BRODIE, Esq.,		

GETTY RESEARCH INSTITUTE



3 3125 01481 2206

